

Earth, Stars and Man (8) Evolution vs. Creation

by Don Oakley and John Lane

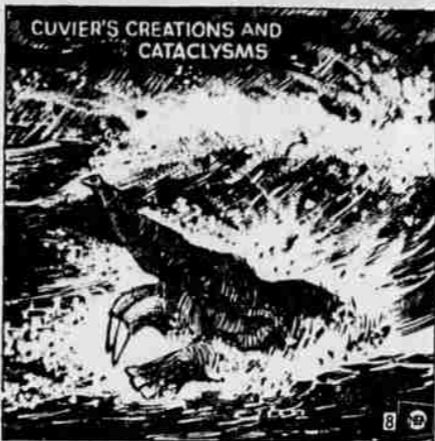
Modern Broomstick-Riding Witches Are Soffies

WHY DOES THE GIRAFFE HAVE SUCH A LONG NECK?

LAMARCK'S PROGRESSION OF LIFE "FROM SIMPLEST TO HIGHEST."

LAMARCK (1744-1829)

BECAUSE HIS GRAND-PERE STRETCHED HIS NECK TO REACH THE LEAVES, NATURELLEMENT.



WASHINGTON (UPI)—Modern broomstick-riding witches are softies — thank goodness! — compared to honest-to-goodness American Indian witches.

The American witch of an earlier day, centuries before Christopher Columbus came nosing west, was an evil and fearsome creature who never would dream of settling for a handful of dime-store candy.

What he or she wanted mostly was your blood.

"The Halloween witch figure," according to the Smithsonian Institution "was highly developed and dreaded in aboriginal America . . . in some respects the figure was very similar to that evolved in Western Europe."

Dipping into its handbook of North American Indians just before Halloween, the Smithsonian comes up with a few ancient tricks for witching your enemy into an early grave or at least making him wish he were dead.

There was nothing pranking and no trick-or-treat innocence in the

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In 1802, 57 years before Charles Darwin wrote his historic *Origin of Species*, a Frenchman published a complete theory of evolution. Had it been believed, it might have caused the scientific revolution later associated with Darwin.

The man was Jean-Baptiste-Pierre-Antoine de Monet, Chevalier de Lamarck. While the French Revolution raged about him, Lamarck worked at improving the system of the Swedish classifier Linnaeus.

Lamarck was struck by the fact that there seemed to be a progression in animals, from the simplest organisms to man. It was obvious that the most complex forms must have developed over eons of time from simple bits of liv-

ing matter. How? Why, by the inheritance of acquired characteristics.

As Lamarck saw it, environment forced an animal to use certain parts of its body and develop them. For instance, certain birds had developed long legs through stretching them in order to wade in water for fish. This characteristic was passed on to their descendants. On the other hand, if an organ was not used, it disappeared. As proof, everyone knew that fish which lived in caves became blind.

Lamarck's bitter opponent was Georges Cuvier, the leading scientist in France. Cuvier had such expert knowledge of animals that he could reconstruct one from a single bone. His opinion carried great weight.

Cuvier was aware that fossils indicated that many animals had once existed but were now extinct. True, they resembled present-day ones, but there was no relationship. Using the chronology devised by Count Buffon, Cuvier thought he saw four separate creations in the 80,000 years of earth's history. Between each was a universal catastrophe which had wiped out all life. Man was the last creation and awaited the final catastrophe. There was no such thing as evolution.

Lamarck was vanquished and became a subject for ridicule and caricature. But he was to be heard from again, as late as the 20th century.

NEXT: Voyage of the "Beagle"

All Lad's Money Taken By Mother

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann: I am a sixteen year old high school junior who needs some advice from an expert.

I worked all summer, hoping to save enough money to buy some clothes, and maybe take a girl out once in a while.

Well, my mother took my whole pay check and gave me back just enough for carfare and lunch. When I tell you I didn't have one extra penny in my pocket I am not exaggerating. Also, she wouldn't give me any money to take a girl to a movie all summer. She said it wasn't necessary.

I now have a job working after school and she is starting the same thing over again. I am thinking about quitting my job so I'll have an excuse to be broke. The girls say there must be something wrong with a guy who can't even buy a Coke. How about this?—BROKE

Dear Broke: I hate to tell a fellow his mother is being unfair but I must in this case. Even if your mother is desperately hard up, she should allow you to keep a small amount of your earnings. If, for example, you are making \$20 a week, you should be able to keep \$5 to spend as you wish. Please show her this column, and I hope it helps.

Dear Ann Landers: Ten years ago I was so madly in love with Frank that I went against my parents' wishes and converted to Frank's religion so we could be married. I also promised to rear the children in his faith.

We have six lovely children and I go to church regularly. Frank, however, stopped going to church two years ago and I can't get him to budge. He used to be devoutly religious and I can't figure it out. Please tell me what I can do? Would it help if I told him I won't go to church any more unless he goes with me?—MAGGIE

Dear Maggie: You made a promise — now stick with it. Frank is probably feeling guilty about something. Ask your clergyman to speak to him. If he was once "very religious" there may be a chance that the spark can be rekindled.

Dear Ann Landers: This letter is being written by two 15-year-old girls who have just returned from a double date. We both admit our guilt. Even on a double date we necked.

Three Recover From Bites

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The sisters, Donna Lee, 12, and Vicki Lynn Eck, 6, and their guardian, Lucy Mest, suffered bites of the back and legs when the dogs, who were traveling with a mail show, attacked them Saturday night after slipping through loose boards in their pen.

Thomas Updegrave, owner of the dogs, and Mrs. Mest's husband, Paul, who heard the screams of the children, managed to pull off the dogs.

Officials said heavy coats the children were wearing helped protect them.

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